



Press Release

National Labor Relations Board

New NLRB Office of Public Affairs to increase public engagement

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Washington, DC -- The National Labor Relations Board announces a new Office of Public Affairs led by an accomplished labor journalist and a specialist in electronic and social media.

The new Office, which replaces the former Division of Information, will be developing a modern outreach and education strategy aligned with the contemporary workforce and workplace, and with new technologies. It will take a more active role in educating the general public and other interested parties – including public officials, journalists, academics and attorneys – in what the Board does and what rights it protects. It will also strive to reach new audiences, especially among workers and employers who may not realize that the Act applies to their workplaces, and to deliver news in a more timely and focused way.

The NLRB was created in 1935 to enforce the National Labor Relations Act, the primary law governing relations between unions and employers in the private sector. The Act also protects any concerted activity by employees to improve their working conditions. The statute has not been significantly amended in decades but in recent years, labor law reform measures have been prominently debated.

The Board is awaiting confirmation of three new members, nominated by President Obama in July. Only two of its five seats have been filled since January 2008. Republican Peter Schaumber served as chairman until January 2009, when President Obama named Democrat Wilma Liebman as Chairman. She has served as a Member of the Board for 12 years.

The Office of Public Affairs will be directed by Nancy Cleeland, who covered major labor disputes and chronicled the underground economy at the Los Angeles Times for a decade, and who shared a Pulitzer Prize for a series of stories that explored the labor and outsourcing policies of Wal-Mart. Previously, Cleeland covered immigration and the U.S.-Mexico border, and served as Mexico City Bureau Chief for Copley News Service. After leaving newspapers two years ago, she led communications efforts at the Economic Policy Institute and created a project to monitor financial bailout efforts.

Anthony Wagner joins the Office as the Agency's first New Media Specialist. Previously, as Director of Online and Web Communications at the National Association of Independent Colleges and Universities, Wagner was the first public relations professional dedicated to the strategic development and use of new and social media at a major higher education association. In this role he created new channels of communication to expand the reach of association activities. Earlier, he led the communications program at Higher Education for Development, an international development organization, overseeing media relations, branding, print publications, and electronic communications.

For email updates of significant national and regional cases, please register [here](#), or follow the Agency on Twitter ([@nlrb](#)). Other channels of communication will be created so that information on Agency activities are continuously available.

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